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[US/US]; 4606 Queen Road, Plymouth, IN 46563-9718 (US). STEHLE, Nathan, W. [US/US]; 1335 16th Avenue, Apt. 9, Grafton, WI 53024 (US). WEIS, Scot, W. [US/US]; 4054 North 64th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53216 (US). PASCONE, John, M. [US/US]; 315 W. Thornapple Lane, Grafton, WI 53024 (US). PARIZA, Richard, J. [US/US]; 43323 N. Oakcrest Lane, Zion, IL 60099 (US). VAN ORNUM, Scott, G. [US/US]; 3244 Twin Creeks Road, Jackson, WI 53037 (US).

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(74) Agent: ROCHE, Richard, T.; Quarles & Brady LLP, 411 East Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53202 (US).

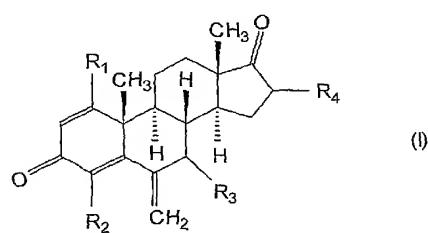
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): CEDAR-BURG PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. [US/US]; 870 Badger Circle, Grafton, WI 53024 (US).

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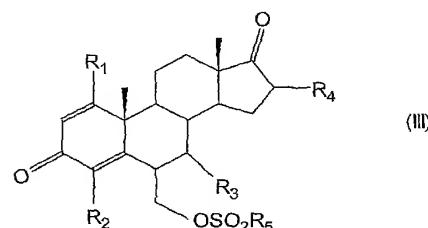
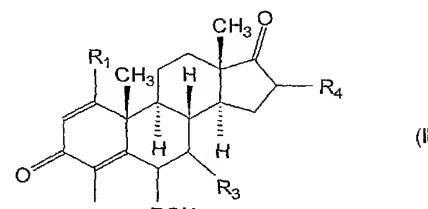
(72) Inventors; and
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): KUNNEN, Kevin

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(54) Title: EXEMESTANE AND ITS INTERMEDIATES AND METHODS OF MAKING THE SAME



(57) **Abstract:** A method is provided for preparing an aromatase inhibitor of formula (I) wherein each of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, independently, is hydrogen, halogen or C₁-C₆ alkyl. In one form, the aromatase inhibitor is exemestane wherein each of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ is hydrogen. In the method, a compound of formula (II) wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ are as defined above and R is alkylene, is reacted with a deprotonating agent and a compound of the formula R₅SO₂X wherein R₅ is C₁-C₅ alkyl and X is halogen so as to obtain a compound of formula (III) wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅ are as defined above. The compound of Formula (III) is then reacted with a base to form an aromatase inhibitor of formula (I).



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